

ORDNANCE, &c., AT ST. AUGUSTINE.

RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
LEGISLATURE OF FLORIDA,

AGAINST

The removal of ordnance, &c., from St. Augustine, and for the further protection of the eastern frontier.

JANUARY 31, 1849.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

RESOLUTIONS remonstrating against the removal of the military munitions, ordnance stores, and small arms, from the garrison in the city of St. Augustine; and asking for further protection to the eastern frontier of the peninsula of Florida.

Whereas it is rumored that the military munitions, ordnance stores, and small arms, now deposited in the city of St. Augustine, are about to be removed to Charleston, in the State of South Carolina:

1. *Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened,* That we most earnestly and respectfully remonstrate against the removal of said military munitions and small arms, inasmuch, as by such a proceeding, the inhabitants of said city of St. Augustine, as well as the surrounding country, who are still in the vicinity of the remaining bands of Seminole Indians, would be left without the means of defence either from foreign enemies or internal foes.

2. *Be it further resolved,* That the national interest, as well as justice to the people of Florida, imperatively demand that the eastern frontier of the peninsula should be strengthened and placed in a better state of protection than it at present is, and instead of denuding that section of country of all military defence, their peculiar situation and exigencies require, among other means, an arsenal provided with at least one thousand stand of arms, with a force sufficient to guard and take care of it.

3. *Be it further resolved,* That although extensive fortifications are being erected at Key West and Tortugas, and by their commanding positions may govern and direct the transit through the keys of the gulf, yet, between them and St. Augustine there is a seacoast of upwards of three hundred miles, parallel with a portion of which, and within twelve hours' sail, lie the Bahama islands, where the British military establish-

ments are always in a state of preparation, contiguous to which is also the island of Cuba, and between the Bahamas and Cuba, and the Bahamas and Florida, the enemy in time of war could throw in a line of battle ships sufficient to cut off all communication between the Atlantic and said fortifications, and land therefrom upon the banks of the Indian river a force sufficient, in connexion with the Seminole Indians now located there, to make a prompt and effective impression on any point of our extensive and exposed sea border, or in the interior of our State; to obviate which an inland water communication can be made at small expense (as will be seen by reference to the map of Florida) by connecting the inland rivers running along coast from cape Florida to St. Augustine, thus uniting the fortifications in St. Augustine with the forts at Key West and Tortugas and making perfect a great national work.

4. *Be it further resolved*, That the governor transmit forthwith a copy of these resolutions to the President of the United States, Secretary of War, Secretary of the Navy, and to our representative and senators in Congress; and that our representative and senators be, and are hereby, requested to exert themselves in resisting the removal of said military munitions, as also to procure a further protection of the eastern frontier of the peninsula of Florida.

Passed the Senate December 27, 1848.

C. W. DOWNING,
Secretary of the Senate.
E. D. TRACY,
President of the Senate.

Passed the House of Representatives December 28, 1848.

WM. B. LANCASTER,
Clerk House of Representatives.
B. A. PUTNAM,
Speaker House of Representatives.

Approved December 30, 1848.

W. D. MOSELEY.

I certify the foregoing a true copy of a resolution on file in my office passed by the General Assembly of Florida.

A. E. MAXWELL,
Secretary of State.